

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Guidance and Eligibility Requirements

2022-2023 School Year

BACKGROUND:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) received an \$803 million ELC Reopening Schools Grant from the federal government in 2021 to support school-based COVID-19 testing activities intended to support the reopening of schools for in-person K-2 instruction. In addition, DSHS partnered with TEA to provide these resources to Texas K-2 public and private school systems to support items or activities to implement prevention and mitigation strategies necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Reopening Schools Grant

SY 2022-2023 K-12 COVID-19 Testing

Program:

Provides school-based COVID-19 testing activities through the work of six approved vendors which provide eligible public and

The CDC has decided to exercise expanded authority to permit the extension of these funds for one year until July 31, 2023. This extension of the grant funds allows for the continuity of current school activities and ensures flexibility to ramp up testing when community levels of COVID increase.

Carefully read the considerations and requirements below before choosing [SY 2022-2023 K-12 Testing Project](#) and the [SY 2022-2023 School Health Support Grant](#). School systems that decide to apply for the School Health Support Grant must confirm they are implementing a universal testing approach/method throughout the 2022-2023 school year. To comply with the federal grant, adherence to the requirements is non-negotiable.

REQUIRED NOTICE:

This K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project is supported by the CDC of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a grant award totaling \$803M with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view or an endorsement, by CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control Website.

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND:	1
APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY:	3
PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:.....	4
TESTING REQUIREMENTS	5
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:	-5

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY:

1. Any public or private K-12 school system interested in participating in this program must complete the [new application process](#) regardless of if they previously opted into state s COVID testing programs.
2. School systems must implement a tiered testing program to participate in the **Reopening Schools Grant (SY 2022-2023 K12 COVID-19 Testing Program & School Health Support Grant)**
3. PreK/daycare students that are part of school systems are eligible for this program also they do not share a campus with K-12 students.
4. Public & private school systems that participated in the **2021 Reopening Schools Grant** must have completed all the [closeout activities](#) to be eligible to apply for **SY2022** Reopening Schools Grant.
5. The City of Houston also received funds through the same federal grant program to support a [set of public and private school systems](#) within the City of Houston boundaries. If you are in the Houston area, please [review the list of school systems](#) the City of Houston will support and determine if you are eligible for their program. If so, once you apply, you will receive an allocation from the City of Houston to use throughout **SY2022** in TEA s program for rapid antigen tests only. In addition, the City of Houston will provide PCR tests and staffing support directly through its program.
6. All eligible school systems must adhere to the **SY2022-2023 COVID-19 Testing Guidance and Eligibility Requirements** (this document) if they apply and participate.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. School systems are required to implement a testing program.
 - **Screening testing is no longer required under this program; however, screening testing may still be advisable in certain circumstances and may be supported by these resources.** Recipients with existing plans in place that include screening testing do not need to submit a plan to the state. (5.25.2019.10.9e) 2u2B

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID 19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms Low frequency of COVID 19 testing (consenting staff and students with current consent forms on file), monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are <u>at high risk for severe illness</u>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID 19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Medium frequency of COVID 19 testing (consenting staff and students with current consent forms on file), bi-weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a <u>mask</u> indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID 19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms



ALLOCATIONS AND HOLDS:

Allocation Planning

The K-12 Testing Program was created to support a multitiered testing approach in school systems across the state. Schools must have a multitiered testing plan that supports their district's needs. Schools must only order what they intend to use in a month. Last year, on average, school systems tested 3% of their total district population each month. School leaders and testing coordinators can review [the public school systems' testing plans](#) and [the public school systems' testing plans](#).

Staffing Expectations

School systems must:

1. Apply for staffing services on the [SY2022-2023 COVID-19 Testing Application](#) and attend the required webinar.
- 2.

We recommend you review the K-12-~~COVID~~ Testing Project FAQ within the [Public Health Order on TEA's COVID](#)